

THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A pool table system that allows a user to play pool upon receipt of a playing fee, said system comprising:

a pool table having a playing surface, rails, pockets, a ball holding rack that retains pool balls, and an activation-sensing unit; and

a remote activation assembly having a processor operatively connected to a currency acceptor, wherein said remote activation assembly transmits an activation signal that is received by said activation-sensing unit when said processor detects receipt of the playing fee, and wherein said activation-sensing unit is operable to allow a user to access said pool balls when said activation-sensing unit receives the activation signal,

wherein ~~at least one~~ or both of said remote activation assembly and/or said activation-sensing unit further comprises an antenna that wirelessly receives power signals from a commercial radio station, wherein the received power signals power one or both of said remote activation assembly and/or said activation-sensing unit.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
ball return passages within said pool table that connect said pockets with said ball holding rack;
a scoring processor; and

a ball detection sensor in communication with said scoring processor and located proximate a portion of at least one of said ball return passages,

wherein each of said pool balls includes an embedded detectable device that outputs a unique signal for each of said pool balls, and wherein said ball detection sensor detects said embedded detectable devices as said pool balls pass by said ball detection sensor, and wherein said ball detection sensor relays a data signal to said scoring processor as said pool balls pass by said ball detection sensor, said scoring processor distinguishing among each of said pool balls based on the unique signals received.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said activation-sensing unit is operatively connected to a gate positioned at an end of said holding rack, wherein said activation-sensing unit acts to open said gate when said activation-sensing unit receives said activation signal.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said currency acceptor is adapted to receive coins and bills.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said remote activation assembly is mounted on a wall.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said remote activation assembly is supported by a floor.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said activation signal is a radio frequency signal.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said pool table is one of a standard pool, billiards, bumper pool and snooker table.

10. (Currently amended) A method for initiating game play on a pay-for-play pool table having a playing surface, rails, pockets, a ball holding rack that retains pool balls, and an internal activation-sensing unit, said method comprising:

depositing a game play fee into a remote activation assembly;

remotely transmitting an activation signal once the game play fee is deposited;

receiving the activation signal at the internal activation-sensing unit;

providing access to the pool balls upon said receiving step; and

providing power to at least one or both of the remote activation assembly and/or the internal activation-sensing unit through radio signals received from a commercial radio station.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said providing access comprises opening a gate positioned at an end of said ball holding rack in order to allow the pool balls to pass therethrough.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said depositing comprises depositing ~~at least one~~ or both of bills and or coins into the remote activation assembly.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the remote activation assembly is mounted on a wall.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the remote activation assembly is supported by a floor.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the activation signal is a radio frequency signal.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the pool table

is one of a standard pool, billiards, bumper pool ~~and~~ or snooker table.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A pay-for-play parlor game system that enables game play upon receipt of a playing fee, said system comprising:

a game unit having a playing surface and an activation-sensing unit; and

a remote activation assembly having a processor operatively connected to a currency acceptor, wherein said remote activation assembly transmits an activation signal that is received by said activation-sensing unit when said processor detects receipt of the playing fee, and wherein said activation-sensing unit is operable to allow a user to initiate game play when said activation-sensing unit receives the activation signal,

wherein ~~at least~~ one or both of said remote activation assembly and/or said activation-sensing unit are powered through signals received from a commercial radio station.

35. (Original) The pay-for-play parlor game system of claim 34, wherein said game unit is a pool table.

36. (Currently amended) The pay-for-play parlor game system of claim 34, wherein said game unit is ~~at least~~ one or more of a foosball table, an air hockey table, a basketball-based game, a football based game, and/or a hockey-based game.

37. (Canceled)